

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please change the paragraph [0009] on page 3 as follows:

In order to obtain multiple N_Port identifiers, the N_Port first logs in with the fabric by sending a "Fabric Login" (FLOGI) extended link service (ELS) command to the attached F_Port using a source address of all zeros. This step is a normal initialization procedure, as is well known in the art, and is performed by almost all implementations. Upon completion of this step, the N_Port has been assigned its first N_Port address identifier, and service parameters have been transferred. After fabric login ~~is~~ is complete, the fabric prepares itself to assign additional N_Port identifiers, and "implicitly" logs in these additional N_Port identifiers. The additional identifiers will be assigned upon the receipt of FDISC as described below.

Please change the paragraph [0018] on page 6 as follows:

Fig. 3 is a flow diagram of the procedure followed by the fabric 110 in assigning the address identifications requested in the flowchart of Fig. 2, and starts at 300 290. At 301, the fabric 110 receives the ELS command with a partition ID. The partition ID may be the worldwide partition number, or any other identification scheme to identify the partition to be associated with the N_Port address identification. At 302, it is determined if the command is a FLOGI command. If yes, at 303 an address table 116 is established in the name server 114 for the N_Port 106. At 304, the first address identification is assigned for this N_Port 106. At 305, the address identification is recorded in the table 116, along with the partition identification, and other parameters needed for the communications protocol to be used to transfer commands and data between the N_Port 106 and the

controllers 120a-m. At 306, the address is returned to the
N_Port 106.